Distr.: GENERAL

E/ECA/CM 8/23
16 April 1982

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

Third Meeting of the Technical
Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
19-23 April 1982

LC/NAIROB

REPORT ON THE THIRD MEETING OF THE AFRICA REGIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Douala, 15-17 March 1982

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Third Meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development was held at Douala (United Republic of Cameroon) from 15 to 17 March 1982 in the building of the National Produce Marketing Board.

Attendance

2. Bureau members elected by the subregional committees for the Integration of Women in Development of the various MULPOCs were invited to the meeting.

(a) Gisenyi MULPOC

Chairperson:	Zaire
Vice-Chairperson:	Burundi
Rapporteur:	Rwanda

(b) Lusaka MULPOC

Chairperson:	Lesotho
Vice-Chairperson:	Mozambique
Rapporteur:	Malawi

(c) Niamey MULPOC

Chairperson:	The Gambia
Vice-Chairperson:	Mali
Rapporteur:	Ghana

(d) Yaounde MULPOC

Chairperson:	The United Republic of Cameroon
Vice-Chairperson:	The Congo
Rapporteur:	The Central African Republic

(e) Tangiers MULPOC

Chairperson:	Tunisia
Vice-Chairperson:	The Sudan
Rapporteur:	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Those present were:

(a)	Gisenyi MULPOC:	Zaire, Burundi, Rwanda
(b)	Lusaka MULPOC:	Malawi
(c)	Niamey MULPOC:	The Gambia, Mali
(d)	Yaounde MULPOC	The United Republic of Cameroon, the Central African Republic
(e)	Tangiers MULPOC:	The Sudan

3. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Office of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Central Africa; United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Ford Foundation; the Pan-African Institute for Development (PAID); the Netherlands Embassy in the United Republic of Cameroon; and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) attended as observers.

II. OPENING SESSION

4. The meeting was formally opened by Mr. Pefora Kaifon, Governor of the Littoral Province, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Cameroon. After welcoming participants he described the socio-economic situation of African countries and women's role in the economy. He then emphasized the need for the preparation and implementation of strategies relating to the development of human resources.

5. He further stressed the need to reform women's education and their attitude towards work. After reviewing the status of women in the United Republic of Cameroon in the field of training, work and participation in national public life, he insisted on the need for all members of society to co-operate.

6. The ECA Executive Secretary thanked the Government of the United Republic of Cameroon for its hospitality, and participants for their presence at the meeting. He expressed his satisfaction with the growing attention paid to ARCC which was increasingly making its voice heard by African policy-makers who were convinced that self-sufficiency could be attained only by mobilizing all human resources for development.

7. He referred to the resolution adopted at the thiry-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly which requested that a comprehensive multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary survey be carried out on the role of women in development so that the required attention was paid to women's needs and problems.

8. He expressed appreciation for the contribution made by Governments of member States to the financing of the ECA Women's Programme. Despite problems relating to external aid flow, US$3 million had been granted by UNDP for women's programmes within the MULPOCs for the 1982-1986 cycle.

9. In view of the slow economic growth of the African continent, efforts should be intensified especially in food production where women's contribution was so important. The proper implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action necessarily depended on women's active participation in all spheres of development. In order to achieve that objective, it appeared indispensable to facilitate women's unrestricted access to all types of education and training.

10. He referred to the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action which dealt with women's role in the industrialization process, which ECA endorsed, to which the ECA adhered and expressed the wish to see ARCC subscribe to those views. Finally he requested the Committee to consider the preparation of the 1985 World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women.

11. Mrs. Isabelle Ebanda, the WCNU Wouri Section's President recalled the human and material limitations of social development as well as the involvement of women of the United Republic of Cameroon in the development of their country within the programme prepared and adopted by the national Bureau of the Organization of Women of the United Republic of Cameroon (WCNU) along the lines charted out by the Cameroonian National Union in the political, economic, cultural and social fields.

12. After welcoming the participants and thanking them for their attendance, Mrs. Delphine Tsanga, Cahirperson of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee, and Minister of Social Affairs of the United Republic of Cameroon, gave an account of ARCC activities since its inception. After two years devoted to setting up the Committee, it was time ARCC became operational considering that the decisions ARCC would be called upon to take would be crucial to its future orientation. Moreover, she stressed the need to strengthen ARCC's co-ordinating role.

13. She expressed the wish that programmes, their time-tables and the state of their financing be communicated to ARCC's Bureau. She also expressed the wish that the Bureau of ARCC be informed about the amount of funds pledged by member States to the Women's Programme through the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development. She further hoped for clarification about the process of elaborating the subregional programmes and also decisions taken on the budgets of those programmes.

14. After mentioning her visit to the Central African Republic, she gave an account of her mission to Rwanda, where the Head of State, Major General Habyarimana Juvenal, had promised to set up a national machinery for women. The Rwandese President had requested her to consider the possibility of organizing a study tour to the United Republic of Cameroon for Rwandese women interested in the activities undertaken by women of the United Republic of Cameroon in their participation in the political and economic life of their country. She also mentioned her brief visit to Burundi.

15. She then underscored certain problems relating to the functioning of the structures set up at the subregional and regional levels for the integration of women in development. In that regard she hoped that the different plans of action concerning women would be carefully examined so as to permit the effective integration of women in the development process. She also underlined the poor flow of information which did not lead to effective co-operation between the structures set up by ECA. She also expressed the wish to see the effective appointment of a secretary to the ARCC Chairperson. In conclusion, she hoped that ARCC would receive the co-operation of all the established structures.

Election of the Bureau and the adoption of the agenda

16. On the proposal of the Sudanese representative, thefollowing bureau was elected to conduct the proceedings of the meeting:

Chairperson	The United Republic of Cameroon
Vice-chairperson:	The Gambia
Rapporteur:	Rwanda

17. The following agenda was adopted:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of the bureau.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Consideration of the progress report of ATRCW on the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Copenhagen Programme of Action.
5. Progress report of the bureaux of the subregional committees.
6. Consideration of the provisional agenda of the third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development and date and venue of the Conference.
7. Other business.
8. Date and venue of the next meeting.
9. Adoption of the report and recommendations.
10. Closure of the meeting.

Consideration of the Progress Report of ATRCW on the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Copenhagen Programme of Action (item 3)

18. After recalling the commitment made by African Heads of State meeting in Lagos during the 1980 economic summit, to promote self-sufficiency as well as to attach more importance to the training of women, the Chief Co-ordinator of ATRCW remarked that the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action had made considerable progress in that arrangements had been made to enable women to play a more important role in all development sectors. She noted the complementarity between the Lagos Plan of Action and the Copenhagen Programme of Action.

19. She suggested that national women's associations should form study groups to see in what way the Lagos Plan of Action could be translated into action. With reference to document ATRCW/ARCC/82/WD.2, the Chief Co-ordinator gave an account of ATRCW activities in the field of organizational machineries, employment and training, communications and the media, research and legislative and administrative provisions, agriculture, industry, transport and trade, technology, energy and environment. ATRCW's participation in international activities (the Commission on the Status of Women in Vienna, the Prague International Conference) were mentioned.

20. In conclusion, she recalled that the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action was the responsibility of all on the continent and that it was essential to continue examining, interpreting and disseminating it with a view to preparing strategies for the Plan's implementation.

21. During the discussion which followed, participants remarked that projects for women were particularly lacking in funds when compared with other development projects. Moreover, it was discovered that a good number of projects were not completely executed because of lack of funds. It was also remarked that there was need to prepare a common strategy for women's projects to be included in national development plans. Participants also suggested that a diversified approach to the mobilization of funds to finance projects should be adopted. Clarification was sought on questions relating to the use of funds from voluntary contributions since States preferred such funds to be allocated to projects rather than to ECA recurrent expenditure.

22. Considering the poor dissemination of information among all structures for the integration of women in development it was suggested that ECA should establish machinery to remedy such a situation. Special emphasis was laid on the need to clarify ATRCW's working methods so as to make women's programmes more credible. It was recommended that ECA/ATRCW should associate OAU and the Pan-African Women's Organization in activities in the subregions. ATRCW was also requested to answer promptly letters and requests from member States so as to inform MULPOC co-ordinators on time of the activities it was carrying out in the respective subregions.

Reports of the Subregional Committees

1. Niamey MULPOC

23. In her presentation, the Chairperson of the Subregional Committee of the Niamey MULPOC first recalled the resolutions adopted by the second meeting of the Subregional Committee, held in Banjul in January 1981.

24. She then outlined the programme of work for 1982-1983 adopted at that meeting (see document ATRCW/ARCC/82/WD.5). She was disappointed with the achievements and felt that the programme's lack of success could be attributed to the difficulties faced in securing the necessary funds. Finally, she listed the activities carried out in 1981 and pointed out, in that connexion, that those activities had produced disappointing results.

25. She added that member States had complained that communication with the Bureau had been inadequate . The Subregional Committee Bureau could not function effectively because they did not have the necessary resources at their disposal. She also deplored the lack of communication among the Subregional Committees, the MULPOCs, the Africa Regional Co-ordination Committee and the African Training and Research Centre for Women. To solve those problems, the channels for mobilizing funds should be streamlined by decentralizing the financial structure of ECA with respect to the MULPOCs, by involving donors, other than UNDP, which were interested in women's programmes, and finally by interesting West African inter-governmental organizations in financing women's projects undertaken by the Niamey MULPOC. She emphasized the necessity of establishing rules of procedure governing the relations between the structures for the integration of women in development and the subsidiary organs of ECA concerned with the same question.

26. She ended her presentation by briefly referring to the activities undertaken for women by the Niamey MULPOC:

(a) Contacts and working visits to the national machineries of Benin, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria and Sierra Leone;

(b) Participation in June 1981 in Dakar in the ATRCW/ILO/SIDA Seminar on the Role of Women in the Marketing of Food Products. That Seminar had brought together nine French-speaking countries of West Africa. Such training was considered a priority by the Subregional Committee;

(c) Organization by the Niamey MULPOC of a Seminar on Project Preparation for 30 officers of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Women in Togo.

In conclusion, she gave an account of her participation in the fifth meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Niamey MULPOC in Banjul in February 1982. A report on the level of execution of the 1981/82 Work Programme had been made on behalf of the Subregional Committee. She had also stated that both the IGOs and member States were requested to maximize their financial and technical assistance to the Women's Programme. ECA had been requested to decentralize funds pledged the previous year in Freetown or earmarked for the women's programme to the MULPOC. She had informed the meeting that those issues had all finally been couched in ten resolutions unanimously adopted by the Council of Ministers for implementation.

2. Gisenyi MULPOC

27. Referring to document ATRCW/ARCC/82/W.4, the Chairperson of the Subregional Committee of the Gisenyi MULPOC explained that the activities of the Subregional Committee of the Great Lakes Countries for the 1981-1982 period covered the following points:

(a) Meetings;

(b) Seminars;

(c) Specific projects.

She mentioned the contacts made by the MULPOC and by the national machineries of the subregion with the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries and other agencies and organizations, such as UNDP, USAID, UNICEF and many United Nations agencies.

She then presented the work programme for 1982.

28. In conclusion she said that:

(a) The Bureau of the Subregional Committee was in contact with all the organs of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries; and

(b) The main problems hampering the implementation of the women's programme in the subregion stemmed primarily from the inadequacy of appropriations allotted to the programme and the freezing of ECA funds. to say nothing of the fact that Gisenyi, which hosted the headquarters of CEPGL and the MULPOC was a land-locked city.

3. Tangiers MULPOC

29. The representative of the Sudan introduced the item and noted that the meeting of the Bureau of the Subregional Committee planned for 11 and 12 March 1982 in Douala prior to the ARCC meeting had not taken place as the Chairperson (Tunisia) and Rapporteur (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) could not attend. She therefore proposed that the report on the activities of the ATRCW in the subregion should be presented by the secretariat. She nevertheless emphasized the urgent need of appointing the Co-ordinator for the Women's Programme in the MULPOC.

30. The representative of the secretariat presented the report of activities for the period March 1981 - March 1982 (ATRCW/ARCC/82/WD.8). The report of the Inaugural Meeting of the Subregional Committee, held from 10 to 12 March 1981 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, had been duly submitted to the Meeting of the Technical Committee of Epxerts of the MULPOC in December 1981 and the Meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries in March 1982. Most of the activities programmed for 1981 could not be implemented owing to the lack of a co-ordinator and inadequacy of funds. The MULPOC had therefore incorporated the unmet needs and priorities in the work programme for 1982-1983. The Co-ordinator should be appointed shortly as the post was currently being advertised in all the countries of the MULPOC and recruitment should be completed in the very near future.

31. The North African MULPOC was subject to serve constraints with respect to human and financial resources. That had led the Committee of Experts to make a recommendation that was adopted by the Council of Plenipotentiaries to urge the States members of the MULPOC to make voluntary contributions, to urge the Executive Secretary of ECA to pursue his contacts with UNDP and to request the specialized agencies of the United Nations and Arab institutions to provide assistance to the MULPOC.

32. In view of the foregoing constraints, the only activities the MULPOC had been able to undertake in the subregion were those that could be financed from the limited budgets of the various ATRCW projects. The activities included the organization of the inaugural meeting of the Subregional Committee and participation in the Seventh Congress of the "Union Nationale des Femmes Tunisiennes" (UNFT) and the meeting of the MULPOC Committee of Experts and Council of Plenipotentiaries. Three studies had been carried out in Egypt on traditional technologies, integrated rural development and employment, and one study in Tunisia on potentials for developing income-generating activities for urban and rural women. Assistance had also been given to the Sudan for the Juba Training Centre and for the establishment of new co-operative or the strengthening of existing ones, such as the carpet co-operative in Sodiri. A women's co-operative organizer and instructor from the Sudan had completed an internship at ATRCW and had studied the Centre's activities and projects in Ethiopia. On the crucial issue of assistance to refugees, ATRCW had participated in a United Nations multidisciplinary inter-agency mission on education and social development/welfare services to the Sudan from 21 January to 20 February 1982. The mission had made an in-depth study of the overall educational and social development problems and needs of refugees and the particular, situation of women refugees. Its report and recommendations for assistance had been submitted to the Government of the Sudan and the United Nations Secretary-General for presentation to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

4. Lusaka MULPOC

33. Referring to document ATRCW/ARCC/82/WD.7, the representative of the Bureau of the Lusaka MULPOC Subregional Committee described the activities that had been completed or were in progress in the subregion. These included:

(a) A training session for planners and development policy-makers;

(b) A training session on project development techniques for women officials;

(c) A study on national development planning and the status of women in Malawi and Kenya;

(d) Assistance to liberation movements;

(e) Organization of the third meeting of the Bureau of the Subregional Committee.

34. The Bureau representative added that, since its last meeting, the Bureau had taken note of both the achievements and difficulties encountered in the implementation of the 1982 programme of work. It had also completed work on the proposed project to be submitted to potential donors and a list of a number of potential donors had been drawn up.

35. Concerning preparations for the third meeting of the Subregional Committee, the Bureau had decided that, provided the necessary funds were available , the meeting would be held from 1 to 5 December 1982. The Bureau had also recommended that such meetings should be held in the countries of the subregion in rotation, on the basis of alphabetical order. The agenda of the meeting would be identical to that of the second meeting. Representatives of the various countries would present reports stressing specific points.

5. Yaoundé MULPOC

36. Referring to document ATRCW/ARCC/82/WD.6, the representative of the Yaoundé MULPOC explained that the programme of work for 1981 fell within the scope of the Subregional Committee's triennial programme for the period 1981-1983. Activities had been carried out as part of the programme in the following areas:

(a) National and subregional workshops;

(b) Studies on credit, handicrafts (dyeing in particular), agriculture and trade as they related to the needs of women in the countries represented.

Speaking of the programme planned for 1982, the representative of the Yaoundé MULPOC reported on the changes that had been made in the light of the results of the 1981 programme and taking financial constraints into account.

37. After listing the activities contained in the 1982 programme of work, she noted that special efforts had been requested of the subregion's States and international organizations with a view to implementing the studies contained in the programme adopted.

Statements by Observers

Netherlands Government

38. The representative of the Netherlands stated that her country's Government intended to support ARCC activities. However, she was unable to specify what form that support might take. The Government was also prepared to provide assistance to ATRCW.

Ford Foundation

39. The representative of the Ford Foundatio n informed the meeting of the Foundation's assistance to ATRCW, particularly as concerned training in research and management provided to ESAMI. She also stressed the fact that the Foundation gave priority to applied research and training in the implementation of women's projects, and particularly the projects of non-governmental organizations. Future assistance to ATRCW and the women's programmes of the MULPOCs would emphasize those two aspects as well as the dissemination of ATRCW research results. The Ford Foundation was currently working closely with PAID-Buea to design a training programme for project managers of non-governmental organizations involved in projects concerning women and development, starting with Nigeria. She mentioned the Foundation's efforts to collaborate closely with PAID-Douala in evaluating the need for non-governmental organization to become involved in training in Central Africa and the Great Lakes Region with a view to prepare the expansion of the training programme already operating in Nigeria.

40. Relations between the MULPOC co-ordinators and ATRCW headquarters should be clarified. The existing situation was confusing to donors, who needed to know what human resources were available from headquarters in order to plan an assistance programme that would meet MULPOC requests for training assistance. Information about headquarters should be disseminated to enable the MULPOCs to follow up research activities.

UNFPA

41. The representative of UNFPA briefly outlined the Fund's major activities. She stated that Fund assistance was chiefly concentrated in areas where women's programmes were involved with family life, education, maternal and child care, and family planning projects. She added that some UNFPA programmes were administered either directly by the Governments concerned, or by other agencies within the United Nations system or by non-governmental organizations. UNFPA currently preferred to assist countries in the context of national projects, with requests channelled through, and supported by individual Governments.

UNICEF

42. The representative of UNICEF emphasized the importance of the women's activities and programmes for co-operation with Governments that had been established by his organization. UNICEF had long been an advocate of the integration of women in the development process; that policy had taken on a new dimension since the Copenhagen Conference. UNICEF would continue to offer its support to programmes aimed at improving the status of women.

IPPF

43. The representative of the International Planned Parenthood Federation said that the organization wished to work in close collaboration with ATRCW and the women's programme co-ordinators at the MULPOC level. IPPF wanted in particular to make use of ECA services to tackle basic problems. The Federation was particularly interested in integrating family planning in women's progr ammes. IPPF activities included information, the creation of income-generating activities, community health, maternal and child care coperatives, women's rights and the status of women. The Federation supported programmes at the regional, subregional, national and grass roots levels.

UNDP

44. The representative of UNDP also expressed his organization's interest in the programme for the integration of women in development. While considerable progress had been made in acknowledging women's role in development, it was none the less important to strive for increased participation. At the 1980 Copenhagen Conference, the UNDP Administrator had noted that the global society in which men and women lived excluded nearly half its members from the decision-making process and that it was therefore necessary to reduce that disparity.

45. Since 1975, UNDP had taken the initiative in increasing women's participation in development, and in disseminating programming procedures and formulating programmes whose contents would benefit women. In that context an evaluation had been made in 1979 of rural women's participation in development. The evaluation, which was carried out in collaboration with United Nations organs, contained recommendations concerning the establishment of a well-defined programme for women, dealing specifically with vocational training, agricultural education, the introduction of adapted rural technologies, access to credit, the development of trade and the promotion of health and hygien services.

46. Furthermore, UNDP was ready to assist women's associations in preparing programmes, either by co-ordinating them with UNDP programmes or by providing consultancy services for the development of those programmes whose cost would be borne in part by the United Nations Voluntary Fund. After noting that UNDP had allocated $US3 million for the financing of specific activities during the third programming cycle, 1982-1986, the representative of that organization stated that the setting of priorities would remain the responsibility of individual countries. It was none the less to be hoped that the activities approved would not be financed exclusively by external sources and that countries receiving assistance would make a fair contribution to such financing.

ILO

47. The representative of ILO stated that the ILO office for Central Africa at Yaoundé, in collaboration with the ILO technical service for women's programmes in Geneva, was ready to assist in the implementation of the project for the integration of women in development of the Yaoundé MULPOC. Initially, ILO experts working in the subregion might participate in scheduled national and subregional workshops on co-operatives and development programme planning in particular. The ILO office at Yaoundé would carefully consider any request for co-operation in the implementation of the Yaoundé MULPOC progarmme for the integration of women in development.

III. Explanatory note on the institutional framework governing relations between the various organs established to promote the integration of women in development (document ARCC/ATRCW/82/WD.3 and ARCC/ATRCW/82/WD.5)

48 Documents and reference materials were introduced by the ECA legal adviser, who noted that the establishment of ARCC in 1979 and of the Subregional Committees had raised a number of legal problems related to the functioning of those bodies and their status vis-à-vis certain other ECA organs.

49. Resolution 2 adopted by ARCC at its second meeting, held at Addis Ababa in March 1981, called upon the Executive Secretary of ECA to define and regulate the institutional framework governing the relationships between the Subregional Committees and ARCC, on the one hand, and between the Subregional Committee and ATRCW, on the other. As an addition to the above-mentioned file, document ATRCW/ARCC/82/WD.16 was also submitted to the meeting and the terms of reference and provisional rules of procedure of the Subregional Committees for the Integration of Women in Development were recalled. The secretariat pointed out that ARCC and the Subregional Committees were not ancillary organs of ECA but inter-governmental structures and that, as a result, they could well be governed by their own rules and regulations, which would be based on the ECA Rules of Procedure. The secretariat also referred to the United Nations Staff Rules, which place members of the secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General, who can appoint them to any post in the Organization.

50. Participants considered that the two documents submitted could be merged into one which would define the institutional framework for subregional and regional structures for women's integration in development. The secretariat was requested to include in the document to be produced the respective mandates of those structures, to define the working relations between them and to indicate the procedures followed. Participants also emphasized that this final document should be transmitted to states in the usual form and early enough for it to be submitted to the legal experts of each country befort it was discussed at the fourth ARCC meeting.

IV. Agenda of the Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development

51. The secretariat introduced document ATRCW/ARCC/82/WD.1, entitled provisional annotated agenda for the third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development. The fourteenth session of the Commission and fifth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers, held in Rabat, had adopted resolution 365/XIV on the structure and terms of reference of ARCC.

52. It would be recalled that the last regional conference had been held in Lusaka in 1979. The above-mentioned document contained the draft agenda of the regional conference for consideration by ARCC. It was suggested that ARCC should also discuss and decide on the date and venue of the regional conference. In addition, the secretariat referred to the 29th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which met in Vienna from 24 February to 5 March 1982. One of the main items on the Commission's agenda was the provisional agenda of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in Nairobi. It was pointed out that the ECA Executive Secretary had stated, during the opening ceremony of the present ARCC meeting that this was a matter of importance for Africa since the World Conference was being held in the region. ARCC should therefore consider the matter as quickly as possible. The secretariat also referre' to the draft resolution submitted to the Economic and Social Council by the Commission on the Status of Women. The draft resolution referred to al so required the United Nations regional commissions to organize consultations, as far as available resources would permit, on issues and topics to be discussed at the 1985 Conference and on organizational arrangements at the regional level for that Conference, and to submit the results of these consultations to the first session of the body responsible for preparations for the Conference. Among the topics proposed by the Commission were the role of women in development and the impact on the status of women of changes in the international economic order. The secretariat also suggested that ARCC should consider these points view.

53. The following points emerged from the discussions which took place after the presentation of this agenda item:

(a) Although the date and duration of the Conference had not been fixed, participants enquired whether any budgetary provision had been made for it. The question of the country in which the Conference is to be held had also not been settled.

(b) It was pointed out that the conference on the Integration of Women in Development should be convened only if it met a priority need, as had been true, for example, of the Lusaka meeting organized in connexion with the World Conference in Copenhagen and as had been specified at the Rabat Conference in 1979. The Lagos Plan of Action was not sufficiently well known in the various States, and even less so among women. An evaluation would therefore be difficult.

54. In conclusion, the members of ARCC agreed that the various topics suggested by the Director of ATRCW should be considered in depth by the Subregional Committees for the Integration of Women in Development and by the MULPOCs. In addition, ARCC accepted in principle that a regional conference should be organized; this would serve as the preparatory meeting for the World Conference to be held in Nairobi in 1985.

55. The ECA secretariat was also requested to consult States so as to identify the country willing to host the regional conference, and to invite ATRCW/ECA to seek all possible sources of finance for that conference. ARCC had requested that the topics suggested by the secretariat and discussed during the meeting should be gone into more deeply for the forthcoming regional conference. ATRCW should report on all these matters at the next ARCC meeting.

56. After the secretariat had completed its presentation, participants unanimously congratulated ATRCW on the studies it had undertaken.

(a) <u>The role of women in alleviating the food crisis</u>

57. In the Lagos Plan of Action, the African Heads of States had made the following declaration; "We commit ourselves individually and collectively on behalf of our governments to achieve self-sufficiency in food production and supply".

58. It was quite clear that, in Africa as a whole, the food situation was continuing to deteriorate, since the population growth rate was now higher that that of all sectors of agricultural production taken together, and an "agricultural crisis" existed when the production of food and cash crops decreased.

59. In most African countries, more women were engaged in agriculture than men. Women therefore had an important part to play in alleviating the food crisis. ATRCW's strategy was based essentially on a quantitative assessment of the contribution made by women to food production. ECA intended to consider that question, in collaboration with other international organizations, precisely by evaluating the role of women in increasing the self-sufficiency of member States in agriculture. In addition, the relation between the food crisis and women's work needed to be evaluated and the necessary techniques identified. The results of these studies would be presented to the third regional conference, and to the World Conference to be held in Nairobi in 1985.

(b) Refugee and displaced women and peace and development in Africa and the world

60. Introducing document ATRCW/ARCC/82/Wd.12, the representative of the secretariat stated that the presence of refugees in any part of the world was a poignant reminder that instability and the absence of peace in the world constituted a very serious problem. It should be remembered that the countries of asylum for those refugees had to provide them with land, food, fuel and energy, together with social services, such as education and health. The representative recalled that there were now 5 million refugees in Africa, the victims of wars, internal social and political conflicts, apartheid, or disasters such as floods and famine. She added that most of those refugees were poor and illiterate women and children from rural areas; they were unevenly distributed over the continent, the majority being concentrated in the poorest and least developed African countries.

61. The representative then stated that ECA had collaborated closely with the OAU in trying to find solutions to the African refugee problem and that ATRCW had participated in those efforts. She added that the Centre had, in particular, assisted women victims of apartheid by offering them training, fellowships and humanitarian and legal aid. The Centre had also participated in inter-agency missions making in-depth studies of the situation of refugees and identifying the special needs of women refugees and displaced persons, especially in education, employment, social development and social services.

62. The representative suggested that the activities to be carried out to alleviate the plight of refugees should be at three levels:

(i) Activities for peace in Africa and the world aimed at eliminating the main causes of enforced movements of people;

(ii) Activities for development aimed at enabling refugees to become self supporting;

(iii) Special activities for women to enable them to overcome their handicaps and contribute to the development of their families and communities.

63. By their activities in the various national, subregional and regional organizations and associations concerned with their problems, African women would become more aware of the situation of refugees and mobilize politically for peace. With regard to assistance for refugees, African women could also intensify their efforts and organize large-scale collections of clothes or other essential products, at the subregional level. As far as development assistance was concerned, qualified local personnel could collaborate in socio-economic studies of refugees and of the local populations affected by this problem. In particularly critical areas, such as community health, family welfare, nutrition and child care, training courses could be provided for refugees, at national and subregional levels, by appropriately qualified persons or institutions. African women's associations and women experts could also contribute to the study and development of projects for refugees and displaced persons in various aspects of rural technology, such as fuels, food or water resources, or the creation of income-generating activities. The representative emphasized that such aid should be provided through co-operation between the various bodies concerned and also under the conventions, protocols and agreements between OAU and the United Nations.

64. In the discussion that followed, the UNHCR representative expressed his satisfaction with the way the problem had been presented and the action proposed. He added that the UNHCR regional and branch offices would be most interested to receive detailed and concrete proposals as well as information on the availability of qualified local personnel who could assist in refugee projects. The UNICEF representative expressed the interest of his organization in collaborating with ATRCW and the women's organizations for assisting refugees, since UNICEF had had considerable experience in this field in Africa. Participants immediately recognized the importance of the refugee problem but emphasized that, since most countries were not directly affected by it, sensitization missions should be sent to those countries to study with them the types of assistance that they could provide. At the same time, such missions would provide an opportunity to describe the situation in the countries affected by this problem and to give the authorities statistics on the women and children currently in the refugee communities. Information of this type would sensitize countries by making them understand the magnitude of the problem and the need for assistance.

(c) National machineries for the integration of women in development

65. In presenting document ATRCW/ARCC/82/WD.10, the representative of the secretariat recalled the origin and history of the programme for national machineries. She then mentioned ECA's activities in setting up the various machineries for women, and made the following comments.

At the national level

66. Although women were becoming increasingly aware of the need to set up national machineries for the integration of women in development, the pace at which this was being done was slowing down. While the International Women's Year had led to the setting up or strengthening of relatively well-structured mechanisms, the process had slowed down markedly for the following reasons:

(a) Many women, and men as well, although possessing the necessary technical skills, were still not fully aware of the role that such mechanisms could play and were therefore not interested in them.

(b) Most countries where one or more politically oriented women's organizations existed were somewhat unwilling to accept the creation of new mechanisms for women, even if they were technical in character. It should also be noted that conflicts between political and purely technical mechanisms were often exacerbated by the generation gap. Politically prominent older women did not always have the necessary technical skills and were not always fully aware of the problems of development to be able to assist other women to play their part in the development process.

(c) The creation of national machinery raised two problems for the States concerned, to which their response was often evasive, if they responded at all. These problems were as follows:

(i) The creation and operation of national machinery necessitated the recruitment of men and women possessing the necessary technical skills;

(ii) A national mechanism required funding to enable it to operate. This problem would no doubt be solved, at least in part, thanks to the ever increasing aid to States provided by governmental and non; governmental international organizations;

(d) National authorities sometimes postponed sine die the setting up of national machineries because of the proliferation of voluntary women's associations and organizations, the rivalry between them, and their struggle for influence.

67. It was to be noted none the less that States, which were becoming increasingly involved in the activities conducted at the subregional (MULPOC meeting and programmes), regional (ARCC, REgional Conference) and international (world conferences of women) levels, had once again begun to show interest in national machineries and women's programmes.

68. The establishment of a national machinery was a distinct political action in so far as it depended on States' political will. Thus, since the machineries had an essentially technical orientation, differences between individual groups could be easily overcome.

At the subregional level

69. Most of the subregional committees had included as a priority in their work programmes the establishment of national machineries, which was a prerequisite for the success of any action for women at both the national and subregional levels. It was to be hoped that countries, the subregional committees, national financing agencies and international, bilateral, multilateral, governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions would do everything possible so that in the near future African countries would be equipped with national machineries appropriate to the realities of the situation. Moreover, because of their technical orientation, the national machineries would be capable of finding solutions to the problems encountered by underprivileged rural and urban women.

70. In the long-term, once the national machineries had reached their cruising speed, subregional machineries should become the supervisory and coordinating bodies for women's activities conducted in the subregions. However, in order for that to occur, the activities of the subregional committees would have to be reconsidered.

At the regional level

71. In the long term, the regional machinery, otherwise known as the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee, should not only advise ECA as to the policy on women to be adopted but also play the role of co-ordinator of subregional policies. To that end, guidelines should be defined at the level of States, the Bureaux of the Subregional Committees and other international organizations, whether regional or not. In conclusion, the representative of the ECA secretariat urged the Bureaux of ARCC and the Subregional Committees to collaborate closely in preparing the regional seminar on national machineries, to be held at Addis Ababa from 22 to 27 November 1982.

72. During the discussion which followed the report by the secretary representative it was suggested that the methodology and tactics used in establishing and strengthening the national machineries for the integration of women in development should be most carefully designed, first of all to sensitize women and subsequently to assess the existing structures, strengthen them and make them more operational.

(d) Skills development for out-of-school girls

73. The representative of the secretariat introduced the document, noting that, according to a recent ECA study on economic and social conditions in Africa, the population of African countries, a youthful one, the average age being estimated at 18 years. 1/ In most African countries, for a large proportion of young people, access to education was difficult ,if not impossible. Among those young people, some had never attended school, others had dropped out while still others had been expelled. Figures on migration from rural to urban areas in African countries also indicated that it was essentially young people who left the rural areas for the towns. The phenomenon was all the more prounced in that the gap was greater between rural and urban areas in so far as existing infrastructures and skill levels were concerned. With the educational system developing at an ever faster pace in African countries, more and more unemployed and untrained young people were emigrating to urban centres in search of jobs that did not necessarily exist and for which, even if they did exist, they were not adequately qualified.

74. It was in that context that the situation of out-of-school girls should be considered. Because of social as well as cultural and religious factors, girls were at a disadvantage in education and training, and the drop-out rate was higher for girls than for boys. Moreover, educational programmes were designed on the basis of segregation of the sexes. That de facto situation had to be remedied; to that end ATRCW had in 1979 initiated a project entitled: "Development of skills for out-of-school girls through non-formal education", having as its objective the meeting of the needs expressed by those girls. Activities carried out under that project consisted of project evaluation missions within each member State, aimed at identifying the nature of the problem encountered and the type of co-operation required. They also consisted of collaboration with ongoing projects for out-of-school girls in the countries concerned, action-oriented research, on-the-job training aimed at upgrading the skills of those responsible for programmes for out-of-school girls, and the organization of courses, in-service training and meetings to enable the persons involved to exchange ideas.

75. ATRCW, in collaboration with the Government of Zambia andthe Commonwealth Centre for African Development, had organized a meeting of experts for English-speaking officers of programmes for out-of-school girls, which had been held at Lusaka, Zambia, from 17 to 30 August 1981. A number of topics and concrete proposals had been considered with a view to ensuring that there would be a follow-up to that meeting at the national and regional levels.

76. During the discussion participants made the following suggestions:

(a) In the context of activities for out-of-school girls, ATRCW should assist governments in carrying out evaluations and in training personnel;

(b) ATRCW should put into practice the results of research carried out on the subject;

(c) A study should be made of ways to motivate girls by encouraging them to select "masculine" subjects for study and to pursue higher education.

1/ ECA, survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1979-1980, Part I.

(c) Utilization of the results of research on women and development

77. Referring to document ATRCW/ARCC/WD.10, the representative of the secretariat made the following observations:

(a) The implementation of a large-scale development project necessarily implied research on women and development, whether or not the project in question contained a component dealing specifically with women. In most countries of the African region women played a role in the economy. The implementation of any development project required basic research dealing specifically with the breakdown of economic activities by sex so that data could be collected on the status of women, from which it would be possible to draw comparisons. In the absence of such data it was impossible to assess the repercussions that the project in question might have on the status of women in the region;

(b) In planning, the implementation of any policy concerning women presupposed the availability of the necessary information and data

78. When, at the beginning of the 1970s, the developing countries had begun to realize the importance of fully integrating women in the development process, it was also realized that there was a need for research on women and development in almost all the countries of the region. What was important currently was to make an inventory of, analyse and disseminate that data base. The African Research and Training Centre for Women (ATRCW) had contributed to that effort, inter alia, by publishing an annotated bibliography listing publications on the problems of integrating women in the development process, both by region and by subject. To date, that bibliography covered the following countries: Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic on Tanzania and Zambia. ATRCW had also published a special bibliography on food preservation and storage.

79. The representative of the secretariat pointed out that ARCC, from its establishment, had been aware of the need to translate research into concrete activities. The ECA Conference of Ministers, at its fifth meeting, held in Rabat in 1979, had adopted a resolution suggested by ARCC calling upon ECA to collect and disseminate the conclusions and statistics derived from the research on the position of women, through the intermediary of the appropriate ECA organs. ARCC, at its second meeting, held at Addis Ababa in 1981, had again urged ATRCW to intensify its activities in the field of disseminating research results relating to the problem of integrating women in development in Africa.

80. The representative of the secretariat stated that ATRCW was concerned to ensure that good use was made of the results of the research which it had carried out in the region. In that connexion, it was implementing a programme for the dissemination of its research results, which had been made available in 125 publications printed in five languages. Rather than being purely theoretical in character, ATRCW's research was aimed at solving urgent problems relating to the situation of women. It should be noted, however, that the research was not generally aimed at solving a specific problem in a particular area but was general in character and concerned all women in the region, since ATRCW's function was to act as a catalyst between women and development projects. ATRCW's participation in disseminating research results in the region thus helped to strengthen regional research institutes, individual research workers and research organizations, provided that they possessed the necessary data base.

81. The representative of the secretariat emphasized that the ATRCW/ECA programme of work for 1982 on the application of research results included the organization of a subregional seminar on their application by the national machineries for integrating women in development, to be held in the Lusaka subregion during the second quarter of 1982. Negotiations in that connexion had been undertaken with the Government of Zimbabwe, which was to host the seminar. It should be noted that the objective of the seminar was to train the personnel of the national machineries in the use of research results within the framework of the national women's organizations.

82. During the discussion following the statement by the representative of the secretariat, participants proposed that an inventory should be made of the organizations or institutions concerned, in each country of the region, with improving the condition of women, e.g., UNICEF, ILO, UNESCO, the Organization panafricaine de la famille, IPPF, the Ford Foundation, etc., so as to improve collaboration in research and the dissemination of results.

(f) Legal status of women

83. The ECA representative gave a brief report on the legal situation of African women, covering the following two aspects:

(a) The struggle to ensure that women were accorded certain fundamental rights and that those rights were respected;

(b) The struggle for the elimination of all forms of discrimination, based on the principle of equality of the sexes.

84. The ECA representative referred to ATRCW's programmes in that field and to the studies already published. They covered, in essentials, research on the provisions in force in the various States, on formal legislation (law, constitutions), and on the customs and religious beliefs on which life still largely depended in African society. Through those studies, it had been possible to define the rights accorded to women in politics, civil law, property law, education and employment. While the rights of African women were now recognized in politics and education, many discriminatory provisions remained in civil law, especially in relation to inheritance and the acquisition of property. That was due mainly to the diversity or the absence of civil codes, or the failure to apply them, and to conflicting legal provisions. Reference was made to the position of women under Islamic law, which should be interpreted in a more flexible manner in view of women's role in the modern world. The position of women under apartheid was also mentioned; as both black and women, they were doubly penalized.

85. Finally, the programmes covering other studies were considered, and especially those in the member countries of the Gisenyi, Yaoundé and Tangier Subregional Committees; those studies would fill the gaps in the studies already carried out within the framework of the other Subregional Committees. The studies concerned would be followed by meetings of experts aimed at developing strategies for eliminating all forms of discrimination and in particular at:

(a) Making STates aware of the need to ratify and implement the various United Nations conventions aimed at ensuring the protection of women;

(b) Establishing national machineries for integrating women in development;

(c) Organizing sensitization campaigns at the national level, having regard to the rights accorded to women.

86. During the ensuing discussion, IPPF provided information on its activities, especially in publishing brochures on women's rights in Benin, Ghana and Mali; those studies could be used by ATRCW in its research on the situation of women in the Islamic world. ATRCW could similarly play a role in the preparation of certain legal codes, and bring its work into line with that of the Association of African Women Lawyers.

(g) Vocational training of African women: Needs and trends

87. The ECA/ATRCW representative began by stressing the need to examine the problem of women's training in the general context of the development of planning the utilization of human resources in African countries. She recalled that the Lagos Plan of Action also recommended the development of all human resources in the region at all levels. She also pointed out that, in pursuance of that recommendation, ATRCW together with the International Labour Organization and SIDA had participated in the organization of a seminar on needs and trends in the vocational training of women in sub-Saharan French-speaking Africa, which was held in Abidjan, the Ivory Coast, from 14 to 18 December 1981 and was convened by the Inter-African Centre for the Development of Professional Training. Participants in the seminar emphasized that the problem of the vocational training of women should be considered in accordance with a certain order of priority, namely: the needs of the majority of women in both the rural and urban areas in the so-called "informal" sector; research and dissemination of information; improvement of training for executives and management staff of small and medium-scale undertakings in the modern and traditional sectors; elimination of illiteracy.

88. The ECA/ATRCW representative added that, in the future, the Centre would stress organized vocational training in the following sectors:

(a) Development of research and the collection of data on the training and employment of women in African countries and the dissemination of such data;

(b) Training of women in the agricultural and related sectors;

(c) Development of procedures for elaborating and testing new and dynamic training methods and modules.

Other matters

89. Under other matters, a participant expressed the hope that ATRCW would send to member States at least five copies of all publications dispatched so that they could be distributed to the national services concerned.

Dates and venue of the next ARCC meeting

90. The President of ARCC asked ATRCW's Chief Co-ordinator for her opinion on that point. The latter suggested that the next meeting of ARCC should be held just before the ECA Conference of Ministers in order to enable ARCC to utilize the Conference's technical services (secretariat and interpretation). It was stated, in addition, that the Tripoli meeting would fix the venue and probable date of the next ECA Conference of Ministers.

Adoption of the report and resolutions

91. Participants adopted the report of the meeting presented by the rapporteur and the resolutions, which would be presented by the ECA Chairperson of ARCC at the ECA Conference of Ministers to be held at Tripoli from 19 to 23 April 1982.

Closing session

92. At the closing session, the Chief Co-ordinator of ATRCW, Mrs. Mary Tadesse, speaking on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, thanked the Government of the United Republic of Cameroon for its warm hospitality and for all the facilities made available to the meeting.

93. She said that the Commission would do its utmost to ensure that the resolutions and recommendations adopted during the meeting were translated into reality. She expressed the hope that member States, and especially their national machineries, would continue to co-operate with ATRCW in the implementation of the Centre's programme for women.

94. She stressed the need for women to participate in all the political and technical spheres of social life, and especially in the industrialization process in the Africa region. Despite the fact that the governments concerned had been slow to attain that objective, it could reasonably be hoped that the process would be speeded up and that consequently the image of African women would be a more positive one at the end of the United Nations Decade for Women.

95. In conclusion, she thanked the Chairperson for her interest in the meeting and for her valuable advice, and praised the quality of the contributions of participants and observers which had helped to make the meeting a success.

96. In her closing statement, the Chairperson of the African Regional Co-ordination Committee congratulated the Committee on the spirit of realism and determination with which it had tackled its work on the problems raised by the participation of women in development within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Copenhagen Programme.

97. She said that the third meeting of the Committee had made it possible to consider the carrying out of investigations whereby the necessary attention could be focused on theproblems raised and to find, in the near future, means of initiating the programmes selected in the area of promoting the status of women. She also stressed the inadequacy of the financial resources made available for those programmes and expressed her concern that UNDP would cease to provide assistance at the end of the 1982-1986 cycle. She also expressed the hope that ECA would provide more regular financial assistance to subregional and national programmes, and that a certain proportion of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development would be allocated to the Women's Programme as part of the efforts to diversify that programmes sources of funding.

She called for the decentralization of ATRCW's funds so as to enable the MULPOCs' programmes relating to the status of women to benefit from them. She stressed the fact that it was ATRCW's duty to co-operate with all the machineries established in the field.

98. After stressing the lack of information exchange among the various structures established in the field, she expressed the hope that the subregional women's programmes would be maintained in the MULPOCs. She also emphasized that ATRCW should provide personnel to the MULPOCs, which had substantial needs in that area, and added that the decentralization which had been begun had proved to be effective in that activities in States were carried out more rapidly.

99. She stressed the vital importance of actually implementing the resolutions adopted, and congratulated the secretariat on the quality of the documents presented.

100. In conclusion, she thanked the WCNU Wouri Section as well as the international organizations for their valuable co-operation in organizing the meeting.

DRAFT VOTE OF THANKS

101. The ARCC members who participated in the third meeting of the Centre, held from 15 to 17 March 1982 in Douala, extended their thanks to the Government of the United Republic of Cameroon and especially to His Excellency, the President of the Republic, and the Cameroonian people, united within the Union Nationale Camérounaise, for the genuine African hospitality extended to them during their stay in Douala.

102. They expressed their gratitude to the WCNU Wouri Section and to all its militants for their active solidarity, which had contributed to the success of the meeting.

103. Finally, they expressed their special gratitude to the President of WCNU, the Minister of Social Affairs of the United Republic of Cameroon and ARCC Chairperson, for the skillful way in which she had guided the discussions of the Committee.

Resolution 1

CIRCULATION OF INFORMATION AMONG THE VARIOUS STRUCTURES FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

The third meeting at the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development, held at Douala from 15 to 17 March 1982,

Recalling resolution 3 of the second meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee concerning the circulation of information among the various structures established in order to ensure the integration of women in development,

Noting with regret that little effort has been made in this direction by the African Training and Research Centre for Women, the Subregional Committees and their Bureaux as subsidiary bodies of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee,

Acknowledging that some delays in the implementation of programmes for women at various levels are largely the result of the inadequate dissemination of information,

Aware that the role assigned to the various structures, notably to the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee, cannot be fulfilled without a regular exchange of information,

1. Requests the Economic Commission for Africa, governments and the regional and subregional machineries to organize an information network on their activities and programmes;

2. Calls upon the national machineries for the integration of women in development to inform the various government services of the work of the subregional and regional machineries for the integration of women in development;

3. Again calls upon the Bureaux of the Subregional Committees, in their capacity as members of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee, and the African Training and Research Centre for Women to do everything possible to inform the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee about the implementation of their respective work programmes;

4. Requests the African Training and Research Centre for Women to inform the Subregional Committees on a regular basis and whenever necessary of the activities carried out in the respective subregions.

Resolution 2

MOBILIZATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The third meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development, held at Douala from 15 to 17 march 1982

Recalling resolution 407 (XVI) of the seventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa regarding the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of programmes for the integration of women in development,

Recalling also resolution 1 of the second meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee on the mobilization of funds,

Noting with satisfaction that efforts have been made in this direction by African States which have contributed to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development,

Further noting with satisfaction the continued assistance of the United Nations Development Programme to the subregional programmes,

1. Commends and expresses its thanks to the African States that have contributed to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;

2. Expresses its thanks to the United Nations Development Programme for its allocations of funds to the subregional programmes for the 1982-1986 cycle;

3. Calls upon the subregional committees to sensitize their States without any further delay to the need to allocate a portion of their contributions to programmes for women at the next pledging conference;

4. Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa to intensify its efforts to provide the subregional programme for North Africa with resources comparable to those provided for the four other subregional programmes;

5. Again calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa to allocate a part of the regular budget for the women's programmes of the African Training and Research Centre for Women and the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres;

6. Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa to diversify the sources of financing for the development of women's programmes within the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres in order to avoid the curtailment of financing in cases where there is only one donor;

7. Again calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa to undertake negotiations with United Nations agencies, particularly those which are executing specific projects in the subregions of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, so as to consider jointly the practical aspects of a more concrete participation by these agencies in the women's programmes of the subregions.

Resolution 3

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES FOR THE SUBREGIONAL PROGRAMMES OF THE MULTINATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND OPERATIONAL CENTRES

The third meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development, held at Douala from 15 to 17 March 1982,

Deploring the delays which have occurred in the implementation of the 1981 subregional programmes,

Noting the existence of certain administrative constraints in the structures of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Requests the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, to study the possibilities and means of speeding up the implementation of subregional programmes through the establishment of a flexible machinery that would allow for the decentralization to the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres of the responsibility for submitting projects, and for securing and administering funds.

Resolution 4

FULL PARTICIPATION BY WOMEN IN THE PROGRAMME OF THE AFRICAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DECADE

The third meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee, held at Douala from 15 to 17 March 1982,

Mindful of the provisions of the Lagos Plan of Action relating to industrial development and of the declaration establishing the African Industrial Development Decade from 1980 to 1989,

Aware that the role of women in industrial development and in the programme of the African Industrial Development Decade must be taken into consideration,

1. Recommends that the Economic Commission for Africa should formulate strategies for bringing about the full participation of women in the development of the industrial sector;

2. Recommends that the Economic Commission for Africa and its member States should establish special programmes for women on the popularization of technology and provide training for women trainers in industry.

Resolution 5

SPECIFIC AND URGANE ISSUES RELATING TO WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

The third meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development, held at Douala from 15 to 17 March 1982

Having taken cognizance of the documents introduced by the secretariat relating to urgent iss ues affecting the develoom ent of African societies,

Cognizant of the importance of the problems raised,

Recommends that:

(a) Concerning the food crisis in Africa

(i) The Economic Commission for Africa and Governments should carry out studies aimed at determining quantitatively and qualitatively the role of women in alleviating the food crisis in Africa;

(ii) They should implement programmes to lighten women's tasks and increase their productivity by upgrading their skills and techniques and by giving them greater access to credit, land and other agricultural inputs;

(b) Concerning refugee and displaced women

(i) National sensitization campaigns should be undertaken, particularly in States not directly confronted with refugee problems, with a view to obtaining their assistance;

(ii) African States , agencies and women's organizations should contribute material and technical assistance aimed at helping refugees to become self-reliant and contribute to the development of their countries of asylum;

(c) Concerning national machineries for the integration of women in development

The Economic Commission for Africa should help States to establish appropriate machineries or, as necessary, strengthen existing machineries technically;

(d) Concerning research

(i) The results of completed studies should be widely disseminated;

(ii) Research should be followed up by concrete action programmes meeting the development needs of women in States;

(e) Concerning the legal status of women

(i) Studies on the legal status of women should be carried out to determine the nature and diversity of formal laws and customs regarding women;

(ii) Action should be taken by States with a view to abolishing all de facto and de jure discrimination against women;

(f) Concerning out-of-school girls

(i) Efforts should be intensified to give the members of this social group opportunities for vocational training, thereby facilitating their access to the labour market and ensuring gainful employment;

(ii) National machineries for women should include in their programmes counselling and guidance services on employment opportunities in their countries and on manpower training objectives;

(g) Concerning vocational training

(i) Special emphasis should be placed on vocational training for women that enables them to acquire functional skills;

(ii) Special functional literacy programmes related to the acquisition of technical skills should be established.